

BARRE GAZETTE

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Democratic committee hosts candidate night

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – About 40 citizens listened to a Zoom candidate night sponsored by the Barre Democratic Committee last Thursday.

Joshua Smith moderated the event, which had three candidates participating: Maureen M. Marshall, Matthew Urban and Troy Valardi. Maureen Marshall and Troy Lee Valardi are running for a three-year term to the board of selectmen. Matthew Urban is a candidate for a five-year term to the planning board along with Anthony F. Mobilio. Frank W. LaRange and Anthony Mobilio are candidates for a one-year term as planning board associate member. Mobilio and LaRange opted to not participate in the candidate night.

The first question asked why the candidates were running for office. Matthew Urban said he served on the board of selectmen for over five years and his term ends with this election. He wanted to continue to serve the town and felt it was a good move to help the town plan for the future. Troy Valardi said he was running for selectman, as he wanted to see what he could do to grow the town and get new businesses to open.

Maureen Marshall said she was running for selectman because when people asked her what she was going to do in retirement, she said she would run for selectman. She said she brings a skill set as she understands public finance and knows how to write grants. She said serving on the board of selectmen was an opportunity to serve in a capacity similar to what she did as the superintendent of the Quabbin Regional School District.

When asked by the moderator, for one thing on their resume, which qualifies them, Valardi said he spent time on the planning board and was a firefighter for 10 years. Urban said he was a selectman for the last five years and was a project manager, who deals with contracts. Marshall said she had experience in government and finance, was currently the Barre Library Association president and executive director of Massachusetts regional school superintendents.

The next question asked the candidates if the town center should have a sign appearance by law. Marshall said the signs should be aesthetically pleasing, but she was not sure the signs should all be the same. Urban said he liked how the town center looks and such a bylaw could effect potential of business in town. He said there should be some sign standard and it was something, which needs to be discussed. Valardi said the town should have a sign appearance bylaw, but it should not be just for the center of town, but for the whole town. He said he understood some people did not like some signs.

Valardi said his vision for Barre was the need for more businesses in town; the town lost a lot of businesses lately. Marshall said she was concerned about the future in the next two to three years without board band for all. She said the pandemic showed the importance of this. She said the town was going to receive more federal money and it was an opportunity for the short-term future and would give the town a “leg up.” Urban said he saw Barre growing to be a main cen-

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Farmer Matt puts down roots in New Braintree

Farm-fresh meals offered to-go

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

NEW BRAINTREE – On Sept. 11, 2020, Matt “Farmer Matt” Koziol purchased his “forever home” for his growing business at the former Grass Roots Farm, 860 West Brookfield Road. Well-known in the area for his beef as well as his custom haymaking for local farms, Farmer Matt has recently delved into providing an assortment of farm fresh meals to go and much more. West Brookfield resident Farmer Matt has been farming for over a decade, at one point owning 200 head of cattle. Farmer Matt has reduced his herd size, but is still selling his beef to stores such as

See FARMER MATT, page 5



Farmer Matt is shown with dogs Rolly and Klaus at his new location, 860 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree.



Farmer Matt's farm stand is open Thursdays and Fridays from 4-7 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take-out dinners are available Fridays and Saturdays.

Chief Holway and his dog assist at structure fire in Ware

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

WARE – North Brookfield Fire Chief Joseph Holway said he was in the “right place and right time to help,” last Tuesday, March 23 when he was driving through Ware to drop mail off to his daughter up Rte. 9.

Tuesday being his day off, Chief Holway decided to treat his canine companion, Angus, an eight-year-old, 185-pound Great Dane, to chicken nuggets at McDonald's after running errands. Angus enjoys riding in the backseat of Chief Holway's Jeep and is a familiar sight around North Brookfield. Before Chief Holway reached McDonald's, he noticed smoke coming out of the overhang at a multi-level building located at 135 Main Street. The building is home to Feel in Great Nutrition, a smoothie and juice bar that recently opened in September of 2020, and about a dozen tenants.

Chief Holway said the 911 calls were already coming in when he arrived on the scene and people were exiting the building. He assisted people coming out and upon entering the building, located one room that was hot. Chief Holway said Ware Fire and Police Departments both responded immediately and contained the fire, ensuring that all occupants of the building were safe. Chief Holway gave credit to Ware Fire Chief Chris Gagnon, “is a really nice guy, they did a great job.” Chief Gagnon credited the first four firefighters on scene with keeping the fire under con-



North Brookfield Fire Chief Joseph Holway hugs his dog, Angus, an 8-year-old Great Dane.

trol until additional help arrived.

Chief Holway has been a member of the fire department off and on since he was 18 years old. Now 63, he has been an instructor at the Mass Fire Academy for 30 years and North Brookfield Fire Chief for three years. North Brookfield Fire Department provides mutual aid to many surrounding

towns and on average responds to 12 structure fires a year. Chief Holway said, “We are extremely lucky to have good fire departments all around. They are all top notch and a pleasure to be a part of.”

Chief Holway was happy to report that Angus got to enjoy his chicken nuggets after leaving the scene.

Board chooses West Brookfield and Barre EMS

Eagle Hill asks for extension on sewer offer

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – At the board meeting of March 22, Selectman Julie Quink said Ware officials met and discussed the ambulance at a previous meeting. Quink was in contact with Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley, and he said the town was looking at reconsidering the cost of ambulance services provided to Hardwick, but no final figures were available. Town Administrator Theresa Cofske said she also understood Ware was looking at the costs, but they did not seem to be significantly lower. Chairman Kenan Young said even if Ware agreed to lower the cost there is the chance they would raise the fees next year.

Quink reached out to both Barre Fire Department and West Brookfield Rescue Squad to see what documents Hardwick needs to sign to proceed. She said they are both working on drafts. Young asked Quink to schedule a meeting with WBRS to ratify a contract, as they are a private entity, and he asked Cofske to get them on the next agenda of the Barre Board of Selectmen.

Sewer project discussion

Quink asked if the town was still in the proper timeframe as outlined in their letter to the Board of Trustees at Eagle Hill School. Recently, the town sent a letter to the school that offered it \$1.8 million to buy out the contract the school has with the town, and setting a 10-day deadline. Years ago, the school provided the town with \$2.3 million, so a sewer line

Finance committee works on budget

Department heads present FY22 request

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – The Barre Finance Committee met with fire, police and regional dispatch heads to go over their FY 2022 proposed budgets.

Fire Chief Robert Rogowski said almost everything in his budget was level funded except training, 20-year longevity stipends, electricity and ladder testing. He said the fire department required firefighters to make 50% of the training per year. Full-time fire fighters with 20 years of service received \$300 and part-timers, \$150. He said electric consumption went up and the line item included all three stations. The annual fee for ladder testing increased by \$300.

On the ambulance side some paramedics and EMTs had step increases. The town had paramedic staff seven days per week. He said overtime increased last year and had 30 calls with COVID cases and 70 suspected cases. Staff had to quarantine and this resulted in the overtime increase. Rogowski said with COVID-19 there were a lot more ambulance calls, but fewer transports as many patients did not want to go to the hospital. The town

See FINANCE COMMITTEE, page 5

improvement could be made. In exchange, the school has not received a sewer bill since then.

The USDA has said it is unable to proceed with the \$27 million sewer project while this contract is in place. Cofske said the Eagle Hill School Headmaster Dr. PJ McDonald requested information from the town and she sent it over. Cofske said that since the Board of Trustees asked for an extension and are advising counsel, they are still within their timeframe.

Quink said that after the joint meeting with the selectmen, Sewer Commission and Finance Committee, she reached out to USDA Director Jennifer Lerch for clarification of the process. Cofske said she was glad that Quink spoke with Lerch, as talking with the experts makes the information clearer to everyone. “It's critical,” Cofske said of the project.

Quink said that things became complicated during the joint meeting, but she realizes the town needs to clear this hurdle before worrying about other aspects of the project. She said she does not think anyone involved wants the town to lose this \$27 million grant. Quink encouraged others to contact Lerch for clarification. Selectman Kelly Kemp said that she would be contacting Lerch Tuesday. Cofske said the public deserves to know, and they look to the board to answer questions and represent them. Cofske said this project, “needs to be fair and equitable to everyone.”

Police contract

The board also ratified the fiscal 2022 Hardwick Police Union contract. The contract is a “bridge” contract of one year, instead of the standard three years. The board agreed that the contract “looked good” and ratified the contract.

See BOARD CHOSSES, page 6



News of the Towns



Round Town

Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Food pantry to hold distributions

The Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in April will occur on successive days, Wednesday April 14 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday, April 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, April 14 or in the evening on Thursday, April 15. As they have since last spring's distributions, in order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients, April 14 and 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers. Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people should continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website at <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Town election April 5

The annual town election will be held Monday, April 5. Polls at precinct 1 located at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road and precinct 2 located at American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road, will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Class of 1970 reunion

The Quabbin Regional High School Class of 1970 will be having its 50th Class Reunion Saturday, Oct. 23. The actual 50-year date was postponed due to COVID. The event is scheduled to take place at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge. The reunion will include a social hour, and dinner. Overnight accommodations are available at discounted rates. More details will be forthcoming. Organizers are searching for classmates. A preliminary interest/opinion letter was sent out the early spring, 2020. Classmates who did not receive one should contact Margo Petracone at westwindfm@aol.com or 978-621-9812. Also, anyone who may be helpful in finding classmates or providing information should call or write.

Church services

The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will hold a Maundy Thursday Service on Youtube after 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus will be held on Easter Sunday, April 4 outside the church at 9:30 a.m.

Candidate night on youtube

Candidate night sponsored by the Barre Democratic Town Committee Thursday, March 25, was recorded and is available to view at <https://youtube.com/c/BCTVBarreMA>.

Barre COA to hold spaghetti dinner

BARRE – The Barre Council on Aging will host a free spaghetti dinner at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Tuesday, April 13. Sign up is required and deadline to sign up at the senior center front desk is Wednesday, April 7.

Depending on the amount of folks that sign up, there may be two seatings. The meal will consist of pasta, meatballs, sausage, salad, dessert and beverage. The cost is free, but donations are welcome.

MOC COORDINATED FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APRIL 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 We ask that each family fill out an Ages and Stages Questionnaire. ASQ is a great tool to gauge your child's development. It's fast and easy! You can fill it out online! https://www.aquatic.com/family/article			No Registration Required! Featuring Maria Milgros ***** Email kicclair@mocinc.org for access to the live event.	1 Miss Kathy's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	2 Miss Paula's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	3
4 Happy Easter!	5	6 Miss Martha's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	7 Miss Chardell's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	8 Miss Kathy's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	9 Miss Paula's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	10
11 Email for Playgroup info. mmacewen@mocinc.org kicclair@mocinc.org clayvis@mocinc.org	12	13 Miss Martha's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	14 "Preventing Parenting Burnout" Workshop 6-7 pm	15 Miss Kathy's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	16 Miss Paula's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	17
18	19 Patricia's Playgroup MOC CLOSED	20 Miss Martha's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	21 Miss Chardell's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	22 Miss Kathy's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	23 Miss Paula's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	24
25 Follow our events on Facebook! www.facebook.com/MOCFCFEParentChild+Programs	26	27 Miss Martha's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	28 Miss Chardell's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	29 NO THURSDAY PLAYGROUP	30 Miss Paula's Virtual ZOOM Playgroup 10:00	
All MOC CFCE programs are funded by the Department of Early Education and Care						

Food pantry to hold monthly distributions

BARRE – Once in a great while a month begins on a Thursday. This makes the third Thursday of the month immediately follow the second Wednesday. April is such a month.

As a result, the Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in April will occur on successive days, Wednesday April 14 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday, April 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. The Wednesday morning distributions in 2021 are ending a half hour earlier than they have in the past, at 11:30 a.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, April 14 or in the evening on Thursday, April 15, whichever is the more convenient for them.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue

to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the catastrophic spread of the novel COVID-19 virus to which no-one has immunity. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions.

As they have since last spring's distributions, in order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients, April 14 and 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers.

Based on the success of dis-

tributions over the past year, the food pantry volunteers believe this "drive-through" style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

Before the pandemic pantry volunteers and clients were able to greet each other with a smile.

With all volunteers and clients now wearing masks in public, the volunteers hope that everyone will still hear the smiles in their voices. Volunteers should not arrive on April 14 or 15 without first contacting either Dave Petrovick at 978-355-4519 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people should continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website at <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

The Three County Fair, Northampton, closed its office for the winter season and instituted staff cuts and furloughs to help the 202-year-old organization survive the extended shutdown of the fairgrounds due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The cuts will affect each staff member, and includes a fourteen percent salary reduction for senior management and staggered furloughs for all employees. Furloughs could be extended if the fairgrounds are unable to host postponed 2020 events in the spring, which include over a dozen different horse shows from April through October, plus a variety of concerts and festivals. The Three County Fair entered 2020 on solid ground after completing 2019 as its most successful year since horse racing ended at the fairgrounds in 2005, thanks to a widely attended Labor Day weekend fair, and another full slate of horse shows and festivals. But with reoccurring operational expenses and more than one million dollars in lost 2020 event revenue, the fair will run out of reserves sooner rather than later. The fair received a Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Loan in mid-May, which has since been exhausted and forgiven by its lender and the SBA. For more

information, people may visit www.3countyfair.com.

With the current and near future Covid 19 parameters from the CDC, the Home Builder & Remodelers Association of Western Massachusetts, along with the Eastern States Exposition, has postponed the March Home Show 2021: the "Original" Western Mass Home and Garden Show to Aug. 20 – 22, 2021. The new date will allow for the utmost personal safety for guest & vendors, allow full building occupancy, and reflect the true show attendance numbers of their past shows

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Easter Egg Hunt set for April 3

The third annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place Saturday April 3 at 11 a.m. on the Curtis Recreational Field, Rte. 68, rain or shine. Children should bring a basket or bag to collect the eggs.

There will be three hunting parties: Prekindergarten, kindergarten through second grade and third grade and above. Everyone should wear masks and keep a safe distance from others.

Third annual town wide cleanup day

Volunteers will collect roadside trash, plastic bags caught in tree branches and waste dumped on trails on Saturday, April 17, as part of the third annual Keep Hubbardston Beautiful town wide cleanup. Volunteers from the Keep Hubbardston Beautiful Committee will be at the Curtis Recreation Field from 8 a.m. to noon to take trash and toss it into the big red dumpster, generously provided by Pleasant View Waste Disposal. The Girl Scouts will be there too, collecting your deposit bottles and cans to raise money to fund their adventures.

Electronic recycle day

Hubbardston Troop 22 is offering a fee-based recycling service one week before the townwide cleanup, April 10, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Curtis Recreation Field. Most items cost \$7 each to recycle; TVs and computer monitors are \$25 each. This is a way to support the Scouts by recycling electronic waste, scrap metal and old appliances. People may recycle electronics: all kinds of TVs (glass tube, console, projection, flatscreen), laptops, computer monitors (glass tube and flatscreen), computers, CPU boxes, all computer parts and accessories, keyboards, mice, cell phones, speakers, video games and systems, camera/video/audio equipment, fax/copy machines, printers, wires, plugs, drives, cards, servers. All computer hard drives are removed and shredded by the recycling company, Data Recycling of New England. Household appliances: All white goods including refrigerators, freezers, water heaters, stoves, dishwashers, washers and dryers, toasters, irons, hair dryers, vacuum cleaners, air conditioners and microwaves. Metal items (less than 8 ft long): Metal poles, metal desks, barbecue grills (no propane tanks), pots. People should call or text Scoutmaster Scott Carignan at 978-928-5997 if their organization wants to recycle a large amount of items.

Senior center

The Hubbardston Senior Center will be closed until April. At that point, the Council on Aging will review how things are going with the virus and plan accordingly. A council member will be checking the phone lines two or three times a week. The director, Claudia Provencal will be checking emails and Facebook every day. The drive through food and eggs will still be in place on Thursday mornings. Masks will be in place properly and distancing will be followed.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of April 5.

Meal sites are closed and there are only Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Chicken Pesto, lemon seasoned rice, Scandinavian vegetables, pineapple, Pumpernickel bread

TUES. – Hot dog, baked beans, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit, hot dog bun, mustard

WED. – Roasted pork loin with gravy, apple cornbread stuffing, country blend vegetables, pear crisp, diet = applesauce, marble rye bread

THURS. – American chop suey, broccoli and red peppers, bread pudding, diet = cookies, Italian bread

FRI. – Jambalaya, rice pilaf, green peas, fruited Ambrosia, whole wheat bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert

**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: Many meetings are closed to the public or will be held remotely.

BARRE

Finance Committee – April 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Election Day – April 5 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – April 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Historical Commission – April 5 at 7 p.m.
Board of Assessors – April 6 at 6 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – April 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – April 6 and April 20 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – April 7 at 1 p.m.
Board of Health – April 12 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – April 12 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – April 12 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – April 13 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Committee – April 13 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – April 14 at 7 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – April 15 at 3 p.m.
Sewer Commission – April 15 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – April 22 at 11 a.m.

HARDWICK

Board of Health – April 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – April 1 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commissioners – April 3 at 9:50 a.m. and April 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Wheelwright Water District – April 5 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – April 8 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – April 9 at 4 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – April 12 at 6 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – April 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Personnel Committee – April 13 at 5:30 p.m.
Planning Board – April 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – April 20 at 5:30 p.m.
Finance Committee – April 26 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – April 28 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – April 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Library Trustees – April 1 at 7 p.m.
Historical Commission – April 3 at 10 a.m.
Vietnam Memorial Committee – April 5 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – April 6 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – April 9 at 10 a.m.
Select Board – April 12 and April 26 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space Committee – April 27 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Board of Health – April 1 at 7 p.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – April 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – April 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Select Board – April 7 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – April 8 at 7 p.m.
Capital Improvements Planning Committee – April 8 at 7 p.m.
Board of Assessors – April 9 at 10 a.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – April 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – April 14 at 10 a.m.
Board of Health – April 15 at 7 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – April 15 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – April 22 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – April 1 at 6 p.m.
Select Board Public Hearing – April 5 at 6 p.m.
Ad Hoc By-law Committee – April 6 at 1 p.m.
Community Outreach – April 12 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board Public Hearing – April 13 at 6:50 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals – April 14 at 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

NBSB supports Hearts for Heat

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Chapter of Hearts for Heat and a donation from North Brookfield Savings Bank helped many residents didn't have to endure another New England winter without heat. North Brookfield Savings Bank is continuing their support of a vital, long-time community partner, the North Brookfield Chapter of Hearts for Heat.

Not only has North Brookfield Savings Bank recently made their annual \$2,000 matching donation to help North Brookfield residents stay warm during cold winter months, but the bank also partnered with Hearts for Heat by sponsoring a hat, coat and mitten drive to benefit the organization. All donations will directly support the North Brookfield Chapter of Hearts for Heat, a community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to confidentially providing payments for fuel; including oil, gas and wood to North Brookfield residents on a fixed income, including the elderly, those who are disabled or sick and unemployed or underem-

ployed individuals and families.

"North Brookfield Hearts for Heat is most grateful for the yearly matching donation of \$2,000; this generous contribution makes a significant difference in our ability to help residents with emergency fuel assistance. Having NBSB pledge to match contributions also creates an extra incentive to residents because their gift will have a greater impact," said Sue Lewandowski, founder and president of the North Brookfield Chapter of Hearts for Heat. "Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, citizens and businesses from North Brookfield and surrounding communities have been amazingly charitable. We continue to be most grateful for all of North Brookfield Saving's Bank's support."

"North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to continue our partnership with the Hearts for Heat North Brookfield Chapter and to help our local neighbors to stay warm," said Donna Boulanger, North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO. "It is an unfortunate truth that many people struggle to afford their fuel payments,

often having to make the difficult choice between heating their homes, feeding their family, or other important needs. Every donation received, no matter what amount, will help local residents of North Brookfield."

North Brookfield Savings Bank is committed to supporting their local communities and knows that just one small act of kindness can extend beyond the initial deed. The "Hat, Coat and Mitten Drive" efforts align with the bank's established Core Values of "Support Our Communities" and "Share Kindness" and will help bring comfort and peace to local residents. North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to be that partner not just now, but for years to come.

For more information about Hearts for Heat or to donate, people may visit www.HeartsForHeat.org.

North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Palmer and Three Rivers Village of Palmer.

Mount Grace improves habitat at headquarters for pollinators

ATHOL – Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust received \$12,500 by the Hollis Declan Leverett Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee for the improvement of early successional bird habitat and control of invasive species at Mount Grace's headquarters, Skyfields Arboretum.

To attract more pollinators such as birds, bumblebees, butterflies, wasp, beetles and other insects, they will be removing invasive plants, creating pollinator plots and planting native species.

Staff and volunteers will create pollinator gardens and plots to increase the diversity of native plants and attract a host of insect pollinators on site. An increase in insect pollinators will in turn attract a greater variety of birds, which rely on the insects as their food source. Native perennials and shrubs, such as wild bergamot, false indigo, meadowsweet and bayberry to name a few will not only provide a native food source for pollinators, but also cover and nesting areas for grass-

land birds, which are declining due to loss of habitat.

Within a dense 2-acre area in Skyfields Arboretum is non-native invasive glossy buckthorn. Glossy buckthorn is a highly competitive shrub with fruit containing emodin, a natural laxative, which prevents birds and other wildlife from digesting the sugar. In addition to not providing nutritional value to wildlife, consumption of the seeds results in glossy buckthorns' rapid spread and encroachment on limited valuable habitat.

The glossy buckthorn on-site at Skyfields Arboretum is multi-stem, making it difficult to remove thoroughly by hand. "To increase the effectiveness of removal, we will start by cutting the buckthorn and then use limited and targeted herbicide directly on the buckthorn stems," Mount Grace Stewardship manager KimLynn Nguyen explains. "That is much better for surrounding plants, insects, and wildlife than widespread spraying. This technique is labor intensive and requires

trained and certified applicators to do the job, but it's the most thorough approach to ensure the buckthorn doesn't return." As the invasives are removed, they will plant native shrubs to provide more diverse nesting and cover source for birds and insects while also providing a native nutritional food source.

"The work may take a few years before we can see the fruits of our labor. Ultimately, we will be rewarded with the buzzing of a variety of bumblebees and the calls of grassland birds," shares KimLynn, who will be leading the project alongside the Mount Grace Stewardship Committee.

On Earth Day, Thursday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mount Grace will host a volunteer work day to hand pull the remaining invasives, create the pollinator plots and plant natives at Skyfields Arboretum located at 1461 Old Keene Road. For more information on this work or to attend the Earth Day event, people may contact KimLynn Nguyen at 978-541-1769 or nguyen@mountgrace.org.

Genealogical society to meet April 27

The Family History Guide helps people choose a path they're interested in, with tools to help them find the information they need. Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc. will offer informal training at its Zoom meeting Tuesday, April 27 at 7 p.m. on how to use the FHG platform, with tips and tricks on

negotiating the various menus and how to zero in on the specific information, which meets research needs.

People may go to the Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society Facebook page for information about how to join the meeting on Zoom. Visitors are welcome at the meet-

ings. Membership is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple per year from January to December. People should mail a check made out to Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society to CMGS, P.O. Box 811, Westminster, MA 01473 or visit www.cmgso.org for more information.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Church to hold Easter services

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a Maundy Thursday service, April 1 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. An Easter sunrise service will be held Sunday, April 4 at 6:30 a.m. outside behind the church. All are welcome. Due to the pandemic, there will be no breakfast following the sunrise service. Easter Sunday service will be observed at 10 a.m. People should wear masks and practice social distancing at all three services.

Town election information

Christine Mardirosian, town clerk, announces the last day to register to vote in the town election set for Monday, May 17 is Tuesday, April 27. The following positions will be on the ballot: three-year term for selectman, town clerk, assessor, board of health, library trustee, cemetery commission, school committee and tree warden; two-year term for assessor and cemetery commission; one-year term constable and five-year term planning board.

Dog license reminder

Dog licenses were due by Wednesday, March 31. All dogs six months or older must be licensed each year with the town clerk. In order to license a dog, the owner must present a copy of a valid rabies certificate, a spayed/neutered certificate, if applicable, for the first time licensing the dog and a check made payable to Town of Oakham for the correct amount. No cash will be accepted. This information may be mailed to the Oakham Town Clerk, 2 Coldbrook Road, Unit 4, Oakham, MA 01068. The information also may be dropped off at the Oakham Town Hall in the blue drop off box located to the left of the town hall entrance. Dog owners should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and their license will be mailed to them. License fees are \$11 for a male or female dog and \$7 for a neutered or spayed dog. The town hall remains closed to the public.

Rutland Lions Club holding daily calendar raffle thru April

RUTLAND – Every March and April the Rutland Lions Club sells tickets for their May Daily Calendar Raffle. Funds raised from these ticket sales help the club with their many charitable endeavors.

Club members are selling to acquaintances, friends and relatives over the phone and through email and through the Rutland Lions Facebook Page. The Rutland Lions Club also plan to resume selling in person in front of Honey Farms in early April. If people are interested in buying tickets, they can also contact Lions Ron and Elaine Marsh at 508-886-4448 or at roncmarsh@gmail.com to make arrangements for purchase. Cost of the tickets is \$10. For every ticket you buy, you have 62 chances to win. Checks, cash and credit card are accepted. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Friday, April 30.

Correction

In the Barre selectmen article, which appeared in the March 25 election Lucas Rotti was incorrectly listed as Lucas Roddy.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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Opinion

Editorial

Oops bloopers
April Fools

Today is April Fools Day. Here are some of the mistakes, which are found during the proofing process or worse make it to print. Omitting just one letter certainly changes the meaning. A recipe for clam chowder gave the following directions: stem eight minutes or until shells open instead of steam eight minutes or until shells open.

A cutline to go with a photo of a large brush pile at the Oakham Municipal Building, consisting of branches and trees from the December 2008 ice storm, labeled it a bush pile. Maybe there were some bushes in there. An article about the Petersham Center School talked about a cost sawing measure when of course, the writer meant cost saving measure.

Gardeners might wonder if the lily leaf beet exists, but they would be more familiar with the lily leaf beetle. Some plants are late bloomers, but there is not a late boomer in gardens. A gardener wrote about the nice leaks, beets and cauliflowers grown in the garden. A plumber deals with leaks and a gardener with leaks.

An error in the Look Back column, had a local dairy farmer attending the 45th annual New England Mild Producers Association meeting when he really attended the N.E. Milk Producers Association meeting.

Switching the order of letters also changes the meaning. Everyone is familiar with the Lions Club, but a simple typing error referred to the group as the Loins Club. Fallen angles give the reader a totally different image than fallen angels.

Cruisin at the Club night welcomed all cars, tucks and bikes to attend.

A local church planned to hold an organ contest instead of a concert or at another concert, the organist will be directing the chair as well as the hand bell choir. At another event, the band played “dane” music instead of dance music.

It was thunder and lighting instead of thunder and lightning, but both lighting and lightning would give light. Maybe the swimmers that swarm in (swam in) the triathlon were bees not people.

The American Legion planned a pot lick supper following their regular meeting. Silverware was provided and it really was a pot luck supper.

All of us need some laughter in our lives and bloopers like these offer a few chuckles especially during this pandemic. Fortunately, due to diligent proofing, the bloopers did not go to print.

Guest column

Adventures of
Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,
This is my lucky day I guess. Missy has just invited me to go out on the deck with her as she sweeps up the pine cones and bird seed shells. Yep, the snow is gone and the steps are clear so I can go down under the deck. Hooray, oh boy wow, I just chased a “chippy” (chipmunk) across the area under the deck into his hole, darn.



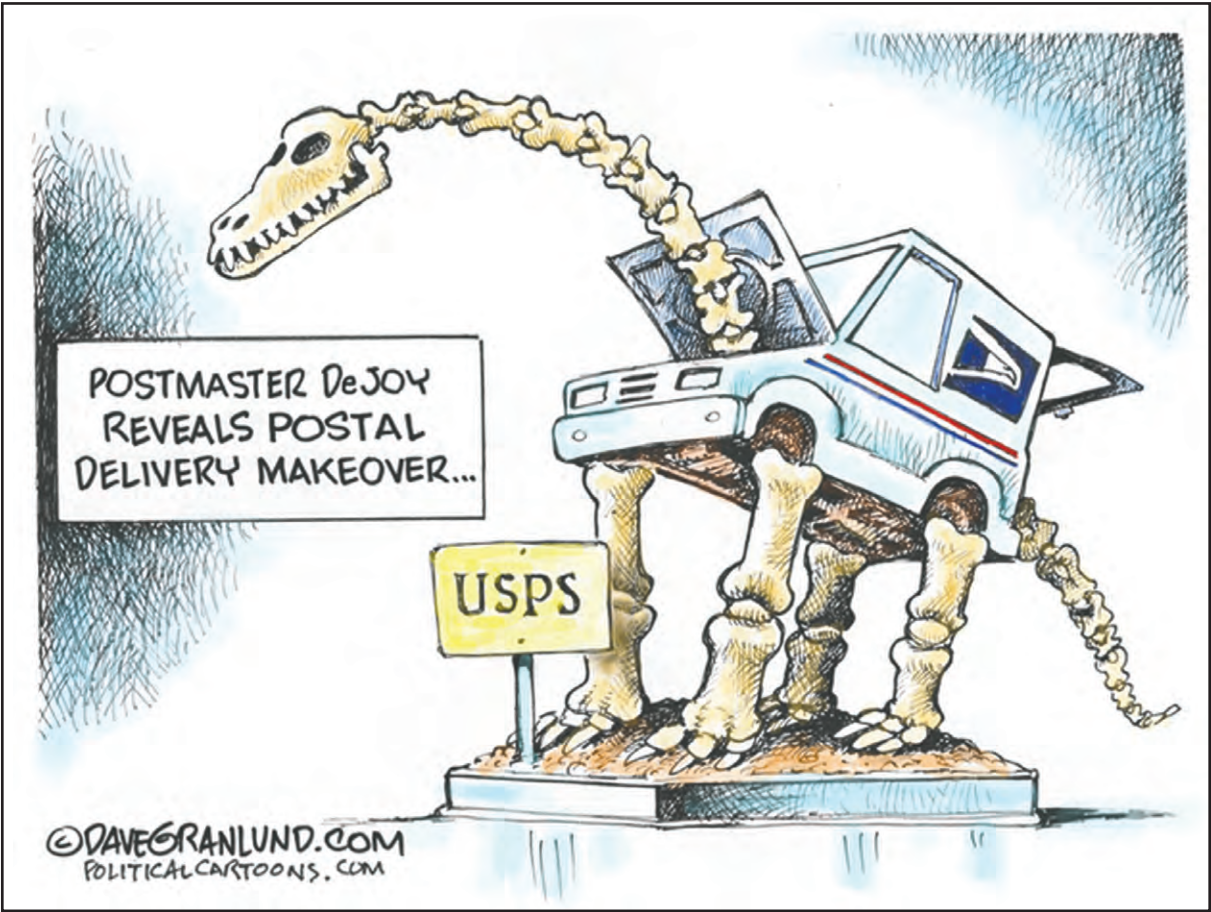
While I am down here, I will dig myself a little hole. Oh, no, the soil is still frozen so I guess I will have to wait and use the inside potty. It was so nice outside I came up on the deck and laid down in the sun. Soon Missy called and I had to go inside.

Then Missy went out into the front hall and started cleaning things up. I didn't find anything interesting there so I came back to the kitchen.

Yesterday, Missy's great-granddaughter got into the plastic cupboard and had everything strewn around the kitchen. Missy didn't seem to get very upset over that. The cupboard door wasn't quite shut so I pawed it open and pulled out some very small cups. They sailed across the kitchen floor very nicely and lodged next to the stove and wastebasket and under the step stool. I was about to hit another when Missy came into the kitchen and saw what I was doing. “Gertrude, what have you got into this time?” I hung my head and told her in cat language I was sorry, but I really wasn't because it was too much fun. I waited for the scolding, but she just said it was okay for little ones to take out the plastic things, but not really for cats.

“Gertrude, why don't you take your afternoon nap?” That was a good idea and after a quick drink of water, I scooted into the spare room and on that bed for a nice afternoon snooze.

Love,
Gertrude



In Past Pages

5 years ago (April 7, 2016)

Despite the snow and slippery roads, 758 or just over 21 percent of Barre's 3,572 registered voters went to the polls April 4. In the only contest on the ballot, Charles R. Chase won a three-year term to the board of selectmen over incumbent Kathlyn M. Inman. Chase received 577 votes (284 precinct 1 and 293 precinct 2).

Hannah Kowal and Megan Quigley, both seniors at Quabbin Regional High School, were the top investment team in Matt Castriotta's personal economics class last trimester. Their stock portfolio grew 5 percent in just three months and ranked 25th in Massachusetts out of more than 700 portfolios in the Stock Market Game.

Adam Ouellet, a fourth-year student at the College of the Holy Cross, has been named to the dean's list for the first semester of the 2015-16 academic year. He is the son of Robert and Joanne Ouellet of Hubbardston. He double majors in voice performance and history.

10 years ago (April 7, 2011)

For the past month, the students at Quabbin Regional Middle School have been participating in a book study about bullying. The students and their teachers have been reading the novel, “The Revealers” in their social studies classes. The idea for this book study was conceived by the school's guidance counselor, Barbara Page and supported by a grant from the Quabbin Education Foundation for Students and Teachers (QUEST). The author of that novel, Doug Wilhelm, visited with students during school hours on March 29 and with parents that evening to discuss the world of Russell Trainor, Elliot Gekowitz and Catalina Aarons – the characters that he created in this book, which he based on his own experiences as a bullied teen.

The annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Oakham Congregational Church will be the last year Gretchen Nahkala's will organize the event. It was 16 years ago in 1995 when she first started the egg hunt. Her oldest child, Jake, was two at the time. She said, “I remembered how fun egg hunts were when I was young and I wanted the same for him.” Her husband, Jeff, helped her fill 300 eggs at home and the couple rented an Easter Bunny costume that she wore. She related with a chuckle,

LOOK BACK
Easter Egg Hunt - 2011



Turley Publications File Photo

This family visits with the Easter bunny at the annual Easter egg hunt in Oakham.

“I was pregnant with Jane that year and there are still people, who talk about the laugh they got seeing me dressed as a pregnant bunny.”

past three weeks have been Mark Wingertsman, Nichole LeBlanc and Nicholas O'Donell.

UMass Lowell, spurred on by another spectacular year in athletics, placed 103 student-athletes on the Northeast-10 Conference Fall 2010 Commissioner's Honor Roll, the Conference announced. Among the individuals was Bethany Staiti of Barre, a junior on Women's cross country, track and field. She is a graduate of Quabbin Regional High School.

25 years ago (April 4, 1996)

Amerigo “Mike” Simeone was feted at a retirement party March 30 at Coldbrook Country Club to honor him for his 38 years of dedicated service as a member of the Barre Police Department. Police Chief James Thompson praised Simeone for his “conduct and excellence in performances of civic responsibilities and his unselfish devotion to his fellow man and the community which he served.”

Oakham Lions Club member George Paradis will be running his seventh Boston Marathon this year. He will participate in the Lions International “run into the light” which benefits the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund.

The “Caught You Being Good” students in Petersham for the

38 years ago (April 7, 1983)

Criminal Justice is the area of study chosen by Carolanne Curnew as her major at Mt. Wachusett Community College where she will begin next fall. Carolanne, who is a senior at Quabbin Regional High School, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Curnew of South Barre. While at Quabbin, she has been active on the student council, the yearbook sales staff, the Drama Club, Latin Club, Spanish Club and French Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Anderson of School Street are back from several weeks vacation in Clearwater, Florida. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Varnot of James Street and Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Lylis of Union Street are also home after spending several weeks in St. Augustine, Florida.

Amy Hubbardston of Maple Avenue returned home recently from a trip to Sumter S.C., where she visited her son and family, William R. Hubbard. She visited with her granddaughters Lisa Ann, a student at the University of South Carolina at Columbia and Mrs. Ralph M. Irick. Lisa returned to Hubbardston with Mrs. Hubbard and spent the spring break here.

Guest Column

A good neighbor
is a gift

By Carole Gariepy

I want to tell you about the extraordinary act of our neighbor, Andrea, while we were out of state for an extended visit with our son.

As everyone knows, the post office and delivery services faced challenges during the Covid crisis and deliveries have been slower than usual. We left for our visit on the day before Christmas and the gift sent to us from our friend, Richard, arrived about a week later, a very perishable gift. The box was labeled Honeybell/Tangelo from Richard “Please Open Immediately” and since we were not home to receive it, it was delivered to our neighbor's home.

Andrea sent us an email that our gift box of Honeybell oranges had been brought to her home and she wondered what we wanted her to do with them. We felt very appreciative for Richard's kind gift and sad to realize we'd be missing out on the Cadillac of citrus. We had that variety when we visited my sister in Florida and knew how special they are, also we knew how sensitive they are to changes in temperature and that their shelf life is short, which is the reason we don't see Honeybells in New England markets. I was thankful they were delivered safely and not left to spoil at our back door. We told Andrea to enjoy them.

Well, she thought about it and decided she would enjoy them, but that we would enjoy them too. She loves orange marmalade but had never made it. She would use the oranges that way and we'd have a treat when we got home. And, what a surprise it was for us. Not only did she bring us jars of marmalade, but she also brought some juice that she squeezed and so delicious. And, not only will the gift be enjoyed by us, I called Richard, told him the story and added that one of the jars of marmalade will be for him. Not often does the giver get a gift from his gift.

This neighborly caring has touched Gerry and me deeply. The gift was a wonderful one and the gift of a good neighbor is a great blessing. Andrea certainly went the extra mile and it made us think about how all outreaches of caring from a neighbor are very important. The Golden Rule is a good neighborly way to live: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Thank you, Andrea.



Submitted photo

The Gariepy's neighbor presented them with a gift ,marmalade and juice,

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

No it is not an April Fools joke. It is April 1 and spring is here. I spent most of the lovely spring days raking and getting the lawn and gardens ready for the spring rains. I don't know how many wheelbarrows of leaves, sticks and pine cones I carried away, but I do know the compost piles are very high.

I have each of my gardens named. They include eight raised beds, which contain a mixture of perennial shade plants, the corner garden, which has rose bushes and daylilies and some other sun loving plants, the hosta beds, which have ferns, hostas epimediums and astillbes. Also, a woodland garden that has daffodils and a mixture of woodland plants, wildflower garden with wild flowers a perennial bed, driveway garden and the driveway turnaround garden. A rock garden is on both sides of the entry to the basement. So from that you can see I have a lot of raking out to do each spring, as I don't rake the leaves out of the gardens

in the fall and we live in the woods, which mainly contain pines and oaks.

Today's recipe is one that sounds like it would be a quick one to do.

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU

1 lb. skinless boneless chicken breast
1/2 lb. imported deli ham
1/2 lb. deli Swiss cheese
2 cans of cream of mushroom soup
Garlic
Onion
Pepper

Tenderize chicken. Place a couple of pieces of the ham and cheese on each breast. Roll chicken and place in baking dish. Season with garlic, onion and pepper. Put water in pan about 1/4 of an inch. Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to 60 minutes. The last 15 minutes add cream of mushroom soup on top of chicken.

This and That

Now that we have had our two vaccine shots, we had compa-

ny the other day. It was so nice to have some adult conversation. I have been loaning a former neighbor some of the notebooks I have on his family genealogy and he returned two to get two more. It was fun speaking about old times with his parents, who have both passed away. It is nice to see the young ones get interested in their roots.

Sunday I went to Walmart and bought two bags of potting soil and one bag of starting soil. I did the plastic milk jug greenhouse that a gardener mentioned with some seeds and will see how it works out. I also have taken out the pots that I plan to put flowers in May and will put some potting soil in them soon. Saturday I spent part of the day taking things from the garden shed such as the patio umbrella and lawn ornaments.

I hope you have a good week and enjoy the nice weather. I hope we don't have any ticks this year. It was good last year.

FARMER MATT, continued from page 1

Wegman's and Stop & Shop, and of course at his own location.

Farmer Matt's new location has had a lengthy history in the farming community of New Braintree, locally known as Wespalis Farm and more recently as Grass Roots Farm operated by Tim and Kristin Bohan. The circa 1700s farmhouse located on the property was lost to a devastating fire in March of 2016. As Grass Roots Farm, the Bohan's added many features to the property, one of which being a top-of-the-line commercial kitchen. When Farmer Matt found the location and saw the kitchen, he said, "I knew I had to have it, but I didn't know what I was going to do with it."

His question of what to do with the commercial kitchen was soon answered by Chef John Marty and Wayne and Michele Clayborne of Glover Farms Baking Company. Chef Marty has close to 40 years of experience in the kitchen, including chef at the Hilton at Logan Airport in Boston. While his specialty has been classical French cuisine, Chef Marty adds his own flair to a traditional American menu offered at Farmer Matt's. The menu changes each week and reflects the produce that is in peak season. Farmer Matt is proud of the fact that Chef Marty uses local ingredients in the food he produces, making it a truly "farm-to-table"

ble" dining experience. Farmer Matt is currently working with 10 local farmers to provide the freshest ingredients to his customers and support the local economy.

No meal is complete without something sweet to cap it off and the pastries and baked goods offered by Glover Farms Baking Company located in West Brookfield, complement Chef Marty's hearty meals perfectly. Owners Wayne and Michele Clayborne make a variety of desserts including pies, muffins, cookies, cakes and cupcakes and cheesecakes, which have been described as "the best ever" by customers. The bakery at Farmer Matt's opens at 9 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Joining Chef Marty and the Clayborne's in the kitchen is Farmer Matt's girlfriend, Brandi Pasternack. Farmer Matt said two of the most popular meals to go food items are Chef Marty's St. Louis ribs and Pasternack's homemade mac and cheese. Farmer Matt said Pasternack helps tremendously to keep the business on track as their customer base continues to grow.

People have come from all over Central Massachusetts and the response has been positive. "Everything has been amazing. Customers come every week and tell their friends...we see new faces every week," said Farmer Matt. With warmer weather arriving, Farmer Matt will be adding handicapped-accessible picnic tables and

portable toilets for outdoor dining. He is also redesigning the parking lot and adding handicapped parking to make the store accessible to all. In addition to outdoor seating, Farmer Matt hopes to add live music for the summer.

Recently Farmer Matt invited an expert to teach a fruit tree pruning class on the farm and he hopes to continue to add more hands-on, educational classes. On Saturday, April 10 Brian Ayers of Long Hill Farm in Brookfield will teach "Introduction to Beekeeping" at Farmer Matt's. More information and registration for this program is available at farmermattwb.com.

Coming soon in early April will be "build your own burger" Thursdays (held weather permitting). Farmer Matt will have the grill ready to customize each customer's ideal burger.

Farmer Matt's spring hours are Thursday and Friday from 4-7 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take-out dinners are available Friday and Saturday. Customers can order their dinner (via the QR code found at https://farmermatt.clickandcollection.com) and drive over to the farm in New Braintree to pick it up.

In My Backyard by Ellenor Downer

I saw an Eastern phoebe in my yard March 24 and heard one singing its name the day before. Every year they nest on the back deck and near my front door.

The Eastern phoebe is a seven inch gray brown bird with a white belly and black beak. It is the only flycatcher, which winters in southeastern United States. Phoebes fly out from a perch to catch insects on the fly; they also pick insects off the ground. While perched, phoebes flick their tail. The phoebe's song is well-enunciated "phoebe" or "fi-bree." with the second note alternately higher or lower.

The female phoebe builds a cup nest of mud and moss lined with with fine grasses placed on a ledge of a building or bridge. She lays four or five white eggs and incubates them. Both parents feed the young. The male defends territories through chase and song.

Once the young leave the nest, the female may renovate the nest and lay a second brood. The male may resume singing at this time.

Wilbraham Times reader

I received an email from a Wilbraham Times reader. She said, "I'm a bird lover, squirrel lover, all animal lover. I have a feeder on my back deck. The birds share it with the squirrels. They seem to not mind sharing and take their turns."

She recently saw a Carolina Wren in the feeder and another looking around her awning that is currently rolled up. She hopes they aren't planning to nest in it. She sees the dark eyed juncos daily, lots of blue jays, a male and female cardinal, which nest each year in the yard. It's really nice seeing their babies. Other birds include titmice, chickadees, yellow finch, house finch, downy woodpeckers, hairy woodpeckers, a pair of pileated woodpeckers, etc. She gets catbirds in the summer, which also nest on the property. A barred owl she named Hooty Fluffers is also around.

Returning birds

I now have six or more red-winged blackbirds along with a grackle or two. The phoebes

are back. This Monday while driving in the White Valley section of Barre along Route 122, I saw at least two dozen turkey vultures circling near the Ware River. It was late afternoon and they were probably getting ready to roost for the night.

Juncos

I still see juncos in my yard, but there are not as many as during the winter. Soon, they will be heading north to Canada for the breeding season. I only put seeds in my feeder tray in the morning as the bird seed loving black bears are out of hibernation. Last week, a black bear destroyed my thistle feeder and grabbed a suet cake out of the suet feeder, which I recently bought. At least, the bear did not break it or worse, take it away.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

USDA announces April 30 ranking date for Conservation Stewardship Program

AMHERST – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service announced April 30 will be the cut-off date for applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program to be considered and ranked for 2021 funding.

CSP helps agricultural producers take the conservation activities on their farm to the next level. It provides a payment for maintaining the current conservation efforts on the land and covers part of the cost for producers implementing new conservation activities.

The program provides many benefits including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of a tribe.

While applications are accepted throughout the year, interested pro-

ducers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by April 30, 2021, to ensure their applications are considered for 2021 funding.

"CSP continues to be a very effective tool for private landowners working to achieve their conservation and management goals," said Dan Wright, NRCS Massachusetts State Conservationist. "It is the largest conservation program in the United States with more than 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled."

Higher payment rates are available for certain conservation activities, including resource conserving crop rotations and advanced grazing management. CSP provides specific support for organic and transitioning to organic production activities.

For more information and to apply, people may contact s local USDA-NRCS office:

Greenfield field office - 413-772-0384, ext 3, serving Franklin

County

Hadley field office - 413-585-1000, ext 3, serving Hampden and Hampshire counties

Holden field office - 508-829-4477, ext 3, serving Worcester County

Pittsfield field office - 413-443-1776, ext 3, serving Berkshire County

Westford field office - 978-692-1904, ext 3, serving Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk counties

Wareham field office - 508-295-5151, ext 2, serving Bristol, Norfolk and Plymouth counties

West Yarmouth field office - 508-771-6476, serving Cape Cod and the Islands

NRCS is a federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the people of Massachusetts to improve and protect soil, water and other natural resources. The agency works with local conservation districts and other partners to serve farmers and landowners in the Bay State and across the United States.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, continued from page 1

only billed for calls where the patient was physically transported to the hospital.

Chief Rogowski said Costal Medical of Sutton did all the ambulance billing. He said about 72% of patients have Medicare, Medicaid or Mass. Health. The government regulated the amount paid for ambulance service for patients with this insurance. Private insurance companies usually paid 100%. The fire chief said Barre had low, middle end ambulance billing rates. The town also contracted with the town of New Braintree to provide that town with ambulance service for \$15,000.

The chief said he ordered the new ambulance last July and it typically took four to six months to arrive. Due to the pandemic, there were delays and arrival of the ambulance would be this August, at the latest.

The chief said the fire department received \$111,000 in grant funding for 2020. The money funded new Jaws of Life and a fire education program for kindergarten students. Finance committee member Brian Inman said he did a "fantastic job with grants."

The fire chief made capital requests. He said a new fire vehicle, which was tabled at the last November Special Town Meeting was still the number one priority. The SUV vehicle, the chief's car was used everyday and was also a command vehicle for radio. The second vehicle did the same thing as well as used for inspections and basic EMT calls. Rogowski said the chief car was a 2013 and with a new chief vehicle it would become the second vehicle. He also asked for lockers to house turnout gear for the South Barre Station. After the damage to the Wheelwright Road Station, the fire trucks went to the South Barre Station.

Regional dispatch

Mike Moriarty, director of the Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center, presented the dispatch budget. The RRECC provided dispatch service to Barre along with Hubbardston, Oakham and Warren. He said 911 call volume doubled last year. Moriarity said contractual costs increased by \$53,936 due to collective bargaining. He said the hiring of part-time personnel would alleviate \$57,000 in the overtime budget. The member town assessments were based on their population.

The regional dispatch center received \$490,672 from a state 911 development grant. He said the amount would not go down, but it could go up. He said the center tried to fund capital projects such as towers and radio equipment from this grant. Town administrator Jessica Sizer requested a five-year capital plan. Moriarty said he would send it to her.

Police department

Police Chief John Carbone said the police department budget was "basically level funded" and was 2% under last year's budget. He said it was the result of a major reduction of contractual allowances. Chief Carbone said the budget included nine full-time officers and six part-time officers. He said there were openings all over the state and it was hard to keep new officers. He said new officers sign to serve for three years if the town funds the police academy for them. If the officer stayed the three years, the town got its money worth.

Chief Carbone said the new cruiser was expected to arrive next week. He said two police vehicles had high mileage and he included a capital budget request to replace one SUV with 148,000 miles.

Town administrator

The town administrator said the town would be receiving \$1.1 million in federal funds. She said what the money could be used for was not known at this time.

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Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Barre. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, April 5. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week's edition. Gary Brigham, Dick Clark, Stephen Craven, Scott Davis, Don Haapakoski, Rosemary Horan, Barbara Kempski, Barbara Laborde, Raul Laborde, Evelyn Luukko, Carolyn Semon, Bruce Townner and Jeremy Varnum correctly identified the photo. Last week's photo was of First Congregational Church of Rutland, Main Street, Rutland.

Gobi files bill addressing lost revenue to MassWildlife

BOSTON – Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), co-Chair of the Massachusetts Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus and past Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, has filed a bill in the 192nd session of the General Court aimed at addressing lost revenue that the state is failing to reimburse to the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife. SD. 1453, An Act to Reimburse the Inland Fisheries and Game Fund, would target the more than \$1 million/year the agency forfeits each year by providing free hunting and fishing licenses to residents aged over 70, which is not currently being reimbursed by the state.

Gobi had this to say on the bill, “Our sportsmen and women play a critical role in conservation and the fees from licenses have made sure land is set aside, not just for hunting and fishing but for many types of recreation such as

hiking and bird watching. Offering free license to those over a certain age is the right thing to do, especially now when we want people to enjoy the outdoors. Reimbursing that lost revenue is also the right thing to do. I appreciate the support I have received including from the Nature Conservancy and the Trustees.”

The losses accrued in this area are expected to grow as the 70+ population increases. While the state does off-set discounted licenses for those aged 65-69, they have failed to address the growing losses from the hunting and fishing licenses of those aged over seventy. This legislation targets that inconsistency while raising desperately needed funds for the agency tasked with overseeing sportsmen and women’s activities while conserving and restoring critical habitat. For more information on the legislation, people may contact Senator Gobi’s office by email at Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

Always two ways to look at things

By Carole J. Gariepy
Author of “In Isolation”

Did you know there was a leper colony in Massachusetts? I didn’t know it existed until a year ago after we visited the leper colony in Hawaii and my friend, Lucy, told me about one in Massachusetts.

Yes, there was one in Massachusetts, located near Buzzards Bay on Penikese Island from 1905 - 1921. And, there is a book written about it, “Outcasts” by Eve Rifkah in 2010. It was a book written in poetry, which is a unique accomplishment. It has a poem about each resident with the story about each one in the back of the book that tells about their lives

before being committed to the colony.

Leprosy had such an awful prognosis, a life sentence - a disease with no cure that meant having to be separated from family and friends forever, isolation from everything except from the other unfortunate patients. It’s worse than anything I can imagine.

One clever patient there hooked up a wireless telegraph and kept the leper community updated on the news from the outside world and the big news in 1918 was the pandemic. I will quote some phrases from the book that tell how those folks responded in shock to those pandemic reports.

The poem is called “The

Angel of Death Walks the World Outside.” Statistics of new cases: 7,122 in one day, San Francisco ... Massachusetts, 85,000 in the month of September ... Betsy’s sister wrote to her from the mainland: We breath through handkerchiefs, shaking hands banned, schools closed, the ball fields deserted ... Hyman gets a letter, his uncle, two brothers dead ... the situation on the island ... the patients on the tiny island cast away ... cast out ... forbidden ... look at each other in wonder ... at all the world turned upside down.

It was a world turned upside down. One-third of the population was infected by the 1918 pandemic and it raged for 14 months and didn’t completely

stop for two years.

The lepers looked at the pandemic with disbelief and felt fortunate to be where they were. For the first time, the lepers saw their isolated circumstance as the only safe place to be. Separation that had been bad suddenly became good.

Today we are hurting from personal challenges and losses. The world outside our homes doesn’t feel safe. We can learn a lesson from the lepers, who realized how isolation was protection. We also can see from their experience how perspective changed their attitudes about their situation. There are always two ways to look at everything and we all feel better when we look at the positive side.

COVID-19 testing at HCC extends through June

HOLYOKE – Even though infection rates have been dropping and vaccinations are becoming more readily available, free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through June 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college’s main

campus, 303 Homestead Avenue.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since last summer to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road

and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 2-7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary.

Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>.

Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather, so people should visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations at<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>.

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, continued from page 1

ter of regionalization; it already has a regional building commissioner and provides ambulance service to New Braintree. He also said it was important to grow economic development to get alternate revenue sources so could lower the property tax rate.

Selectman candidate Valardi lost his signal as he was participating from his vehicle. He did not return to the forum.

There was a rumor was circulating about a gun shop

coming to Barre. The moderator asked the two candidates remaining if they thought a gun shop in town would be good or bad. Urban said he did not think it was a big deal, as it would be highly regulated. It would be another business in town. Marshall said the state highly regulates gun shops and they have a statutory right to exist.

The next question concerned past animosity between planning board and the selectmen. Marshall said she would try not to contribute to animosity and said in her experience difficult conversations often

lead to a better product. Urban said he was part of the problem and there were some lingering feelings about some zoning by laws. He said he respected everyone on the planning board.

Each candidate presented final words. Marshal said in her visits to town departments and talking with folks, she said some South Barre residents felt disenfranchised. She also said she lived in town most of her life, but she learned more about Barre. She thanked the Democratic Committee for putting together the candidate night and Joshua Smith for moderat-

ing. She said she hoped everyone votes on April 5. Urban also thanked the Democratic Committee and the moderator. He said he knew how to develop a team and the team was the town of Barre.

The polls located at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road (precinct one) and Post 2 American Legion, 450 South Barre Road (precinct two), will be open Monday, April 5 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Candidate Night was recorded and is available to view at <https://youtube.com/c/BCTVBarreMA>.

BOARD CHOSSES continued from page 1

New business

Quink said the topic of opening the town offices to the public was brought up at the Finance Committee meet-

ing. Cofske said that decision would be up to the Board of Health. She said Health Agent Marcelino “Tex” Sarabia has said he would feel comfortable with staff being in the building if they had received both doses of the COVID-19 vac-

cine. Kemp asked Cofske what would happen if individuals choose not to vaccinate. Cofske said that Kemp should reach out to Sarabia for more information.

Quink asked if boards could continue to use Microsoft

Teams for meetings when the meetings return to in-person and Cofske said yes, as the laptop used for the meetings would remain in the Board of Selectmen meeting room for use with the virtual meeting platform.



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Soccer alignments proposed for new statewide tourney format

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Holyoke and Central will stand together as the only two schools from Western Massachusetts that will compete in Division 1 soccer under the new alignments that have been proposed.

This fall, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will change to a statewide tournament. In an attempt to equalize the competition, Massachusetts will move from four to five divisions in most major sports, such as soccer, basketball, and baseball and softball.

According to the alignments that have been proposed, Holyoke and Central are the only schools in the region that have enough enrollment to be part of Division 1.

Many current Division 1 schools in the region will now move down to Division 2.

Among the Division 2 teams in soccer will be Agawam, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, Minnechaug Regional, Amherst, and Ludlow. All of these teams have been playing in Division 1 for many years, and have competed in Division 1 tournaments at the regional and state level. Ludlow was a Division 1 state champion a couple of years ago.

Belchertown will be among the teams that will be featured in Division 3. This is not a change for those teams. They have been

SOCCKER,
continued from page 8



Quabbin boys soccer will play in Division 3 beginning this fall.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Girls soccer will be a part of Division 3 as well



Soccer playoffs will switch to a statewide playoff with 32 teams a part of the tournament.

Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one playoff game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups are active and players who are not already on a team will be placed in a draft, currently scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 11.

The league's first games are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league's website.

Pioneers fall to Blue Devils



Jordan Talbot escapes a tackle and tries to run the ball.



Richard Martin attempts to catch a pass.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Giovanni Perniciaro attempts to navigate through the crowd of Northampton defenders.

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Saturday afternoon, the Pioneers were only able to make it through a half in a 35-0 defeat against Northampton. The Blue Devils, which normally play three divisions ahead of Pathfinder, took advantage of a Pioneers team that had just 12 players. At halftime, the coaching staff made the decision not to continue playing in order to prevent injuries from happening.



Austin Lagimoniore returns the ball toward the left side.

Entry list growing as Icebreaker event nears



Submitted photos

The Icebreaker 125 is just a few weeks away and the entry list is piling up.

WATERBURY, Vt. — Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park is just over three weeks away from opening the 2021 Northeast Auto Racing season with the annual Icebreaker. The headlining \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 on Sunday, April 11 continues to draw buzz and big names as the entry list grows leading up to the event.

Nearly 30 Tour-type Modified teams have registered for the debut of the Outlaw Open Modified Series. Even more are expected by the time the first green flag falls for qualifying. The list includes former track and series champions, many multi-time winners, and rising stars looking to start the season with a bang.

To no one's surprise, a huge contingent of racers from the "Modified Country" of Southern New England have entered. Former NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champions Doug Coby of Milford, CT; Bobby Santos III of Franklin, MA; and Ronnie Silk of Norwalk,

CT are among the biggest names preparing for the season-opener.

Other touring series champions on the entry list are Chelmsford, MA's Jon McKennedy; Moosup, CT's Chris Pasterjak; and Woborn, MA's Anthony Nocella. Although NASCAR Cup Series regular Ryan Preece has not officially entered the Icebreaker, he has publicly expressed his interest in competing.

Plenty of weekly Modified warriors are also ready for the long-distance challenge. They include Berlin, CT's Keith Rocco, a seven-time Thompson Speedway champion, and Tolland, CT's Ronnie Williams, a two-time SK Modified champion at Stafford Motor Speedway. With 125 green-flag laps on the card, many factors will play into who ultimately takes home the big check.

"I think you're going to see a lot of different strategies in this type of race," Williams said. "I think a

RACING,
continued from page 8

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Education

QCC announces fall semester plans

WORCESTER — Given current progress in the fight against the pandemic, Quinsigamond Community College plans to resume in-person services for the fall 2021 semester to the extent that it is safe and permissible.

Last year, to ensure the safety of its community, QCC made the difficult decision to significantly limit in-person services and, with the exception of clinical courses and a few labs, pivoted to remote learning. The college is exploring logistics and will continue to make decisions to help ensure the safety of its students, faculty, staff and community.

“At QCC, we are committed to student

success. We know that many of our students benefit from in-person classes and services, while others take advantage of the flexibility of online courses,” said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

Prior to the pandemic, approximately 20% of QCC’s courses were already held online. The pandemic allowed the college to increase its capacity to serve students through online and remote services.

Additionally, QCC has significantly increased financial support to its students through \$2.4 million in federal emergency funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II, authorized

by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and an additional \$1 million in institutional funds. The College’s Student Emergency Fund is also available for students in significant hardship due to the pandemic, who are exempt from receiving certain federal aid due to citizenship, residency or enrollment status.

QCC will begin its VIP registration for returning and active students on March 29, with new student registration beginning on April 12. For more information about QCC, people may contact Josh Martin, director of institutional communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Katherine Wahrer joins MWCC faculty

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College welcomes its newest criminal justice faculty member, Katherine Wahrer.

“We are excited to welcome Ms. Wahrer to our team. Her work in human trafficking and race issues bring a welcome new perspective to our criminal justice department faculty” notes Dean Margaret Jaillet, Dean of Health Sciences.

The Scarborough, Maine native discovered her passion for psychology, criminal justice and teaching at Stonehill College in Easton, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology and criminology. Inspired by her professor Dr. Twyman-Ghoshal, she focused her research studies on human trafficking, which lead her to an internship at ASTRA in Belgrade, Serbia where she worked on a variety of action initiatives against human trafficking in that country. In 2016 and 2017 she was a LION Scholar for conducting independent research in Belgrade, Serbia and Yerevan, Armenia, about anti-trafficking actions.

In 2017 Stonehill College named her Criminology Student of the Year.

Following her graduation from Stonehill, Wahrer earned her master’s in criminal justice at the University of Albany, State University of New York where she is now a doctoral candidate. As a research assistant for the John Finn Institute for Public Safety, she helped code police body worn cameras for projects that examined supervised coaching, instruction, and police performance.

Currently she is a supervisor for the PULSE Lab in Albany, N.Y., where she researches psychological theory to understand criminal justice and legal issues, particularly those affecting vulnerable and victimized populations. Some previous



Katherine Wahrer

work includes understanding the medical misdiagnosis of child abuse, specifically the effects of race and involvement with child protective services and the effects of dehumanization and disgust language on immigration attitudes through a sentiment analysis of Twitter.

Assistant Professor Wahrer will be teaching Criminal Procedure, Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Investigation during the spring and seven-week accelerated semesters.

Mount Wachusett Community College offers a law enforcement track and a criminal justice transfer track in its criminal justice associate degree program in addition to a certificate in law enforcement. To learn more, people may visit mwcc.edu.

College News

MCPHS University announces dean’s list

BOSTON – Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences announces the students, who made the dean’s list for the fall 2020 semester.

Local students making dean’s list were Kayla Garvey of Barre (Class of 2023) who is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy; Quillah Hakkarainen of Rutland (Class of 2021), who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Matthew Murphy of Rutland (Class of 2021, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. All will graduate from the Worcester campus. The dean’s list

recognizes those students with a full-time course load who have achieved outstanding scholarship with a 3.5 GPA or higher for the academic term.

Local students earn awards from WGU

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Two local students earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University. The award is given to students, who perform at a superior level in their coursework.

Jessica Buzzell of Oakham and Sean Miller of Rutland both earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University College of Business.

HCC Foundation scholarships due April 16

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Foundation began accepting scholarship applications Wednesday, March 3 for the 2021-2022 academic year.

More than \$245,000 in awards is available for incoming, continuing and transferring HCC students through more than 150 different scholarships. The application deadline is Friday, April 16.

Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible for scholarships, which are awarded through the HCC Foundation, HCC’s nonprofit fundraising corporation.

Applicants only need to fill out a single online form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they

are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

For the 2020-2021 academic year, the HCC Foundation awarded scholarships to more than 200 students. To view scholarship opportunities and begin the application process, people may go to www.hcc.edu/scholarships. Questions should be directed to the HCC Foundation office at 413-552-2182 or email the scholarship team at scholarships@hcc.edu.

SOCCER, continued from page 7

in Division 3 in recent years, though girls soccer has been playing Division 1 to improve its competition level. Belchertown won the boys Division 3 state championship in 2019.

South Hadley, which won a girls soccer Division 3 state title in 2019, will move to Division 4. Also included in Division 4 will be Mahar Regional.

Moving to the newly created Division 5 will be Palmer, Pathfinder, Monson, Granby, Ware, Quaboag, and North Brookfield.

In Central Mass., Tantasqua will be a part of Division 2, while Quabbin Regional will join Division 3.

The divisions the teams will be assigned will determine what state tournament that team will have an opportunity to be a part of. With the number of divisions increasing, there

will be more opportunities for teams to qualify, though there could be a lot of excessive travel in the early rounds of the tournament depending on what part of the state a team comes from.

Teams will have an opportunity to appeal their divisional placement, whether it before enrollment or competition reasons.

What has yet to be determined is what a Western Massachusetts tournament may look like. While the MIAA will not sponsor a tournament going forward, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference wants to sponsor a tournament. It is unknown how the competition will be aligned, but it could be difficult to place the teams according to division, with situations like having just Holyoke and Central in Division 1. The PVIAC had to put planning for sectional tournaments on hold due to the pandemic.

RACING, continued from page 7

lot of guys will be pushing hard in the early laps of the race. It’s the start of a new season, and a lot of guys haven’t raced yet. I’m expecting a strong run out there. The No. 25 with Gary Casella always runs well at Thompson.”

“You just have to play your cards right with all of the pit strategy and 125 laps that are all green flag laps,” Rocco added. “Fuel is probably going to play a role in it for this one, too. There are a lot of aspects that are going to be part of trying to win the race. We always do really well in the open shows, from the SK Modifieds to the Tour Modifieds. Hopefully, we’ll come out of the box strong to start the season.”

However, the hunger for victory isn’t just limited to Connecticut and Massachusetts. Racers from six different Northeast states already entered the Icebreaker 125, giving the event a regional

flavor that speaks to its appeal among the Modified ranks.

New Hampshire racers Andy Shaw (Center Conway) and Trevor Bleau (Troy) live in an area typically dominated by Late Model-type cars. However, they’re ready to make Modifieds the Granite State headliner for at least one day. Riverhead, NY’s Eric Goodale is one of several drivers who are expected to do double-duty with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event at Virginia’s Martinsville Speedway. Goodale’s fellow Long Islander Artie Peterson III is also representing the Empire State.

Anthony Sesely is making the trip to Thompson from Port Monmouth, NJ. Earl Paules has an even long drive from Palmerton, PA. Patrick Emerling has the current “long haul” award, though, with a 432-mile journey each way from Orchard Park, NY to drive Ted Anderson’s #1CT.

The Icebreaker 125 is the first event in the new Outlaw Open Modified Series. A quartet of \$5,000-to-win Wednesday events are scheduled for June 16, July 7, August 11, and September 15. The season concludes with the return of the Thompson 300, a \$20,000-to-win event on October 9 and 10 as part of the annual World Series of Speedway Racing.

Drivers can still register for the Icebreaker 125. Outlaw Open Modified Series entry forms and rules are available at www.act-tour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds. General event information can be found at www.acttour.com/thomp

son-speedway.

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. A total of 10 divisions will compete across two days of racing. Sunday’s card features the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series. There’s also a 40-lap ACT-type Late Model shootout plus the Limited Sportsman and SK Light Modifieds.

Saturday’s six-division card is highlighted by the season-opening Thompson 75 for the PASS North Super Late Models. They’re joined by the Sunoco Modifieds, NEMA LITES Midgets, EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge, Mini Stocks, and an 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open. An optional Test N’ Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 with all Icebreaker divisions welcome.

Adult general admission is \$30 for Saturday and \$35 for Sunday. Kids ages 12 and under are \$10 each day. Advance tickets are available at <https://happsnow.com/event/Thompson-Speedway-Motorsports-Park-YHPQ>. Grandstand attendance is limited to 50% of capacity per Connecticut COVID-19 guidelines. Pit passes will be sold at the track.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries and camping reservations, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompson-speedway.com, or visit www.thompson-speedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Now and ____

5. Israeli city ____ Aviv

8. Indicates near

11. Minneapolis suburb

13. Large Australian flightless bird

14. Fine-grained earth

15. Plant genus that includes water caltrop

16. Peacock network

17. TV writer Dunham

18. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

20. They ____

21. Muslim ruler title

22. Position given in respect of

25. Explaining further

30. Measuring instrument

31. Romanian monetary unit

32. Council of ___, 1545-

1563

33. Savory jelly made with meat stock

38. Journalist Tarbell

41. Most suspenseful

43. Festivity

45. Animal embryos

48. Fertility god

49. Medical patients' choice (abbr.)

50. Type of sword

55. Competition

56. Bird of the cuckoo family

57. Afflicted in mind or body

59. Engineering organization

60. Beverage receptacle

61. Spiritual leader

62. Doctor of Education

63. Where golfers begin

64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. Vietnamese offensive

2. Fast mammal

3. Oh goodness!

4. The back of one's neck

5. One who lives in another's property

6. Involve deeply

7. Alfalfa

8. Tropical tree resin

9. Sudden fear

10. Jewish religious month

12. Veterans battleground

14. Musical symbol

19. German river

23. Paddle

24. Lizard

25. Shock treatment

26. The common gibbon

27. Brew

28. Usually has a lid

29. Lenses in optical instruments

34. Time zone in

35. Wrinkled dog: Shar

36. Denotes equal

37. TV network for children

39. Take the value away from

40. Female graduates

41. Don't know when yet

42. "____ tú": Spanish song

44. "Seinfeld" character

45. Bleated

46. Entwined

47. Away from wind

48. Soft creamy white cheese

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. They resist authority (slang)

58. Speak ill of

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

REMINDER:

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Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

...All the Difference

What difference does Easter make? I suppose our response depends entirely upon how we define Easter. If Easter, to you, is simply about a bunny, colorful eggs and copious amounts of candy, it is likely just another holiday that comes and goes with the passing of time. If Easter, however, centers upon the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, then it is impacting for both time and eternity. This premise is worthy of exploration.

If there is one thing that binds us together it is our broken nature. It is a commonality we share regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, income and beyond. Do you deal with inadequacy, insecurity and recurring character flaws? Do you put the “fun” in dysfunctional? Have you ever felt ashamed, alone, clueless and helpless in this world? We all have in varying seasons, yet the risen Christ provides the remedy for all that ails us. Ultimately a living Jesus makes all the difference! Please allow me to be more specific:

1) The Issue of Confusion

We all wrestle with confusion. We face uncertainty and doubt concerning matters both great and small in the course of life and living. For instance, one of the more common questions I hear as a minister is, “How can I be sure of the right religion when there are so many options?” The following excerpt speaks to this challenging circumstance in light of the resurrection of Christ:

“Modern men and women ask with great sincerity, ‘How can I know which religion is the right one?’ This is a legitimate question. The average person today faces a veritable supermarket of religions from which to choose. He or she sees the well-stocked shelves and wonders, ‘Which should I choose?’ It is also a crucial question because on the surface there seems to be no great difference between Christianity and the religions of the world. They have written scriptures and so do we. They have miracle stories and so do we. They have ethical standards and so do we. They have long and rich histories, as do we. It is easy for the casual shopper to doubt, confused as to which religion is the correct one. They can even-wrongly-assume that all religions are the same. But there is one fundamental difference, one fact that sets Christianity apart from every other faith: Jesus is alive and rose from death as He promised. I can take you all over the world and show you the tomb of long-dead leaders. Yet there is no place on earth where I can point to a dead Jesus. The only thing I can point you to is an empty tomb.”

Matthew 28:6a (NIV)

6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

2) The Issue of Guilt

Have you ever known the sting of guilt? Have you never felt shame over some wrongdoing? The Bible is quite clear that we all have sinned and fallen short of the right standards of God (Rom. 3:23). None of us-left to our own devices-are righteous, not even one (Rom. 3:10). As one author notes: “The record of our failure haunts us day and night. It whispers to us in the darkness and shames us in the light. Sin stalks the trail of every person born on planet earth. No one is born without sin, no one lives without sin, and no one can claim to be totally free of its power. The question is not, ‘Am I a sinner?’ because the answer is always yes. The question is, ‘How do I get rid of the guilt I feel in my soul?’”

The only real solution to the problem of human sin is the finished work of Jesus Christ (John 19:30). It was Christ who offered His life on the Cross as the atonement for our sin (1 John 2:2). It was Christ who rose from death, demonstrating that God the Father had accepted His substitutionary work (Matt. 20:28). The following portion of Scripture articulates the wonder of Jesus’ death and resurrection, as well as what they achieve on the behalf of those who believe in Him:

Romans 5:6-10

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath

through him! 10 For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life.

3) The Issue of Loneliness

We all know what it feels like to be lonely. Isn’t it amazing that the most connected generation in world history often feels the loneliest! The following quotation addresses this shared experience:

“Men and women across the world ask, ‘Where can I find a friend? How can I find someone who really cares for me?’ It seems so odd since many people are connected via the internet and technology, but so many still feel so alone. It is not that hard to understand, however. We are all living in the fast lane now. We get up in the morning, get dressed, go to work or school, come home to eat supper, watch TV and go to bed-only to get up the next morning and do it all over again. Who can make time for friends? Moreover, we do not know up neighbors. We put up fences, shrubs and security systems to protect our privacy. People move so much these days, there seems little incentive for making the effort. In the end, countless millions are frustrated, bored, tired and with no one they deem a close friend. We scream and no one answers. We cry for help, but who hears our voice?”

Against this awful reality stands the Word of God and the promises thereof:

Matthew 28:20b (Jesus Speaking)

“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Hebrews 13:5 (The Lord Speaking)

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Such words would be meaningless if Christ were still dead. If Easter never happened, we are truly and utterly alone. Yet a risen Savior can be the friend we all need and the confidant we crave. Are you in need of a compassionate companion and comforter? I would point you to Jesus-He who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

4) The Issues of Death and Eternity

Have you ever wondered about matters of death and eternity? Do you long for hope in the life to come? If so, you are not alone! After all, it is natural for us to want some assurance that there is something beyond this life-something good and hope-inducing. Death seems a rather frightening, permanent condition! As one writer posits: “Have you ever touched a dead person? Ever experience the cold, clammy, waxen feel of death? There is no movement in the nostrils, no twinkle in the eye, no smile on the lips. Death feels terrible, unreal and unnatural. When we stand over the body of someone we love, we feel helpless, angry, defeated and afraid.” No wonder the Bible speaks of death as an enemy (1 Cor. 15:26).

Truly a dead Jesus would be of little help for us. What good would such a Savior be against the back-drop of death? If He could not save Himself, how could He save us? But what of a living Jesus-one who visited the grave and returned “because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him” (Acts 2:24)? Such a Savior would change everything! Hope founded upon Him and His promises would provide the certainty we seek. May these words of Christ be the foundation upon which you establish your hope:

John 11:25-26

25 Jesus said . . . “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The one who belongs to Him need not fear death. Rather, they can echo the words of the apostle Paul:

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

55 “Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?

57 . . . thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ultimately, a living Jesus offers you entrance to a new life-a life that is both abundant and eternal (John 10:10).

-A life free of doubt

-A life free from guilt

-A life free from loneliness

-A life free from the fear of death

A living Jesus makes all the difference. Will you trust Him? Will

you give yourself to Him in faith today? I pray you do in this Easter season. Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us in person each Sunday at 10:30am (COVID-19 protocols are presented on the aforementioned website). We hope to see you soon!

Pastor James Foley

New Life Assembly of God, South Barre

Palm Sunday

“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!”

Our services can be found on our website at www.barrechurch.com and Facebook page.

Scripture Reading: Mark 11 v 1-11

I. Introduction:

In life it is nice and awesome to be recognized for what one has achieved; to receive an award or trophy in our various fields such as music, sports, at work and elsewhere. It makes us feel good and appreciated for all the hard work we put in. It is also nice to hear someone say thank you for what you have done, and to be appreciated for it. I was thinking about that as I was following Jesus’ footsteps as He arrived at the Mount of Olives looking towards Jerusalem and would make His entrance into the City.

II. Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Palm Sunday can almost be seen as the climax of the ministry and Person of Jesus the Christ. It is wonderful to see the recognition that was given to Him as He was entering Jerusalem. It was about Palm branches, and people shouting in jubilation at the sight of their Messiah.

Jesus was traveling from Jericho in the North, arriving at the Mount of Olives, and as He was looking West towards Jerusalem, one wonders what was going through His mind. This would be the end of His earthly journey before He would be crucified.

As He arrived there, Jesus took it upon Himself to arrange for His entry to Jerusalem. He was very specific as He instructed His disciples to go into the Village, where they will find a colt, tied up, was never ridden, and bring it to Him, with a message to anyone who would ask them about that, that the Lord needs it. They went into the village, and we see them putting their outer clothes on the donkey, to act as a saddle. He sat on it, and rode into the City of Jerusalem. There were crowds following Him and others who went ahead of Him. Let’s imagine the scene, as the crowds were screaming, “Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our Father David!” They were throwing branches in front of Him, and spread their clothes out on the road, in honor of this man! The Palm tree was very special.

The Land of Palestine was called by the Greeks and Romans, “The Land of Palms”, and the branches a symbol of victory, according to Revelations 7v9. This man whom they followed, this Rabbi, who performed miracles and spread a message of love and inclusion and compassion deserved to be honored like this.

Palm Sunday is therefore a day of celebration, recognizing our Lord and Saviour as the Messiah, sent by God for our salvation. The shouts of Hosanna, refers back to the book of Zechariah,

Chapter 9 v 9 where it speaks of the coming Messiah, “See Your King comes, riding upon a colt, with people in jubilation “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!” Hosanna was a prayer invoking

God’s saving action and was also a shout of acknowledging a famous Rabbi. The people who followed Him saw Him as their Messiah, the One whom they have been waiting for.

III. The Entrance to Jerusalem ushers in a new beginning

Jesus’ entry to Jerusalem marks a new beginning, says William Lane in his book on Mark. His ministry will continue and lead to conflict with the religious leaders. We see Him cleansing the temple, teaching some more, and then prepares the disciples for their ongoing ministry without

SERMONS, continued from page 10

Obituaries

Julianna Mortell Hoch, 60

CHELMSFORD – Julianna Mortell Hoch of Chelmsford, Massachusetts passed away on March 12, 2021 from complications of cancer at the age of 60.

She is survived by her husband, Eric Hoch and her daughter, Annmarie Hoch, both of Chelmsford, as well as her father, Daniel J. Mortell of Barre; her brother, Daniel L. Mortell of Barre and her sister,

Sarah Harding of Hardwick.

She grew up in Barre and moved to the Boston area after high school.

Julianna was a wonderful wife and mother. She was a devoted and loving friend. She was an architect, artist and builder. She gave light, beauty and vision to her husband and daughter, to her family, to her co-workers and to her many friends.

We know that she will bring light and beauty to the higher worlds in which she is now traveling.

There will be no memorial service. If anyone wishes to donate to a charity in her name, please donate to The House of Hope

DEATH NOTICE

Mortell Hoch, Julianna
Died March 12, 2021
No Memorial Service

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE – Oh how great to hear music by guest pianist Holly Bartelmann and the voices of young children for the Tri-Parish Community Church Palm Sunday service at the New Braintree Congregational Church. Guest minister, Kathleen Fitzgibbons, gave two sermons – “Visiting Jerusalem” for the young children and “Jesus Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem” for the young at

heart. Rev. Fitzgibbons will be with the Tri-Parish for two more weeks; Easter Sunday on April 4 and Sunday, April 11. The Easter service will also include guest organist, Deborah Kent; and will be at 10 a.m. in the New Braintree Congregational Church. All are welcome with masks and social distancing. The Tri-Parish is going ahead with plans for its annual plant, bake, tag and craft sale for June 5

and 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Hardwick Town Common. Contacts are Jennifer Pollard at 845-242-0529 for the plant sale; Alice May Lowell for the bake sale at 413-477-0947. Vendor spaces are available for \$30 for a 10’x10’ space. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite Crevier at 413-477-6942. Also, volunteers are needed both days to help set-up and break-down booths.

Tri-Parish to hold annual plant, bake sale

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church will hold its annual plant, bake, tag and craft sale, Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6 on the Hardwick Town Common from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up during the sale and breakdown both days. People should contact Jennifer Pollard at 845-242-0529 if able to help. People willing to bake goodies or assist with the bake sale

should contact Alice May Lowell at 413-477-0947. Tri-Parish is seeking vendors for the tag and craft sale. Spaces are offered for \$30 each. Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite Crevier at 413-477-6942.

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, March 21
11:34 a.m. Property Dispute South Barre Road – Services Rendered
12:44 p.m. Sick/Unknown South Street – Transported to Hospital
4:46 p.m. Trauma Root Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal
5 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Pleasant Street – Transported to Hospital
9 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Arrest(s) Made
Arrest: Magaly M. Jimenez, 35, Southbridge
Warrant
Summons: Magaly M. Jimenez, 35, Southbridge
License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle

Monday, March 22
2:23 a.m. Falls Pleasant Street – Referred to Other Agency
4:55 p.m. Diabetic Summer Street – Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, March 23
4:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/

Fire Williamsville Road – Vehicle Towed
11:14 a.m. Brush and Wildland Fires South Street – Fire Extinguished
1:26 p.m. Power Lines/Wires Down Elm Street South – Referred to Other Agency
9:29 p.m. Disorderly Conduct Main Street – Arrest(s) Made
Summons: Brandon F. Cormier, 32, South Barre
Assault and Battery
Arrest: Shasta A. Pacheco, 29, South Barre
Assault with Dangerous Weapon; Assault with Dangerous Weapon; Assault and Battery; Reckless Endangerment of Child; Threat to Commit Crime (Murder); Threat to Commit Crime
Summons: Isabel Serrano, 33, South Barre
Assault and Battery

Wednesday, March 24
4:22 p.m. Illegal Dumping Worcester Road – Area Search
Negative

Thursday, March 25
12:35 p.m. Missing Person West Street – Officer Advised
6:12 p.m. Seizures South Barre Road – Transported to Hospital
11:05 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Wheelwright Road – Referred to Other Agency

Friday, March 26
2:38 p.m. Power Lines/Wires Down Summer Street – Located/Found
3:40 p.m. Assault and Battery Peach Street – Transported to Hospital
Summons: Andrea L. Berthiaume, 27, South Barre
Assault and Battery; Credit Card, Receive Improper

SOUTH BARRE

Saturday, March 27
10:55 a.m. Illegal Dumping Barre Depot Road – Officer Spoke to Party
2:56 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Cutler Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of March 15-29, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 136 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, 18 radar assignments, 22 traffic controls, 21 emergency 911 calls, 21 motor vehicle stops, 5 safety hazard, 1 forgery/fraud, 1 stolen motor vehicle, 8 complaints, 1 vandalism, 1 threat, 2 animal calls, 1 trespass and 1 motor vehicle accident in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, March 15
4:40 p.m. Phone – 911 Misdial Prospect Street – Spoken TO
6:09 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital
11:44 p.m. Phone – Complaint Hardwick Road – Spoken To

Tuesday, March 16
1:46 a.m. 911 – Misdial High Street – Spoken To
3:23 p.m. 911 – Complaint North Street – Services Rendered

Wednesday, March 17
7:28 a.m. Phone – Suspicious Activity Lyman Road – Transferred Call to C7
7:32 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Turkey Street – Transported to Hospital
10:40 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital
4:27 p.m. 911 – Assist Citizen Barre Road – Services Rendered
8:19 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital

Thursday, March 18
11:09 a.m. Phone – Forgery/Fraud Church Lane – Spoken To
2:52 p.m. Medical Emergency School Street – Transported to Hospital
3:36 p.m. Phone – Welfare Check

Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital

Friday, March 19
8:55 a.m. 911 – State Inspections Old Petersham Road – Services Rendered
9:11 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Main Street – Dispatch Handled
3:46 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Written Warning
3:57 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued
4:33 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued

Saturday, March 20
2:14 p.m. Phone – Trespass Turkey Street – Gone on Arrival
3:02 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Mill Road – Written Warning
4:03 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued

Sunday, March 21
11:10 a.m. Phone – Fire Alarm Barre Road – Services Rendered
1 p.m. Cellular – Vandalism Barre Road – Report Taken
3:47 p.m. 911 – Misdial Hardwick Road – Services Rendered
6:43 p.m. Phone – Stolen Motor Vehicle Greenwich Road – Report Taken
8:54 p.m. Phone – Carbon Monoxide Alarm Greenwich Road – Services Rendered

Monday, March 22
12:10 p.m. 911 – Misdial Petersham Road – Officer Handled
4:52 p.m. Initiated – Complaint Turkey Street – Spoken To

Tuesday, March 23
6:50 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Barre Road – Services Rendered
4:59 p.m. Phone – Property

Damage Church Lane – Report Taken

Wednesday, March 24
3:36 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Ridge Road – Transported to Hospital
9:30 p.m. 911 – Misdial Turkey Street – False Alarm

Thursday, March 25
12:47 a.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Barre Road – Removed Hazard
7:04 a.m. 911 – Misdial Unknown – Dispatch Handled
11:10 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Charity Hill Road – Transported to Hospital
9:06 p.m. Threat North Street – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Friday, March 26
9:42 a.m. 911 – Disturbance Church Lane – Transferred Call to C7
3:42 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Joslyn Road – Citation Issued
8:12 p.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Main Street – Services Rendered

Saturday, March 27
12 a.m. Initiated – Safety Hazard Hardwick Road – Voice Message Left
3:01 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Vehicle Towed
5:07 p.m. Other – Complaint Thresher Road – Officer Handled
6:13 p.m. Phone – Complaint Main Street – Spoken To

Sunday, March 28
12:02 a.m. 911 – Hang-up Call Church Street – Spoken To
12:13 a.m. Initiated – Complaint Hardwick Road – Spoken To
9:11 p.m. 911 – Safety Hazard Shore Road – Services Rendered

MORE POLICE LONGS ON PAGE 10

Public Notices

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**, to see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Barre, Zoning, 140-4A to delete May 4, 2009 and insert October 28, 2019.

A copy of which is on file with the Planning Board. Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the zoom public hearing or submit comments in writing to the Planning Board, 40 West Street, Suite 5, Barre, MA or via e-mail barre-boards@townofbarre.com prior to the public hearing.

Douglas Martin
Chairman
4/01, 4/08/2021

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Richard B. Dickman and Pamela A. Dickman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Merrimack Mortgage Company, Inc., dated July 22, 2003, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 30964 at Page 312, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Merrimack Mortgage Company, Inc., to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, dated April 22, 2015, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 53675, Page 103; by assignment from JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., to MTGLQ Investors, L.P., dated January 22, 2016, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54958, Page 29; by assignment from MTGLQ Investors, L.P., to U.S. Bank Trust National Association,

as Trustee of Tiki Series IV Trust, dated April 28, 2020, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62536, Page 37; and by an assignment from U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of Dwelling Series IV Trust, dated October 23, 2020, recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63964, Page 363, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **1:00 P.M. on the 23rd day of April, 2021**, at 91 Crawford Road, Oakham, MA 01068, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit: The land, with the buildings thereon, in Oakham, Worcester County, Massachusetts on the northerly side of Crawford Road and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point in the northerly line of said road at a corner of land now or formerly of John C. Dixon et ux;

THENCE by said Dixon land N. 26° 27' E., 193.53 feet to an iron pin;

THENCE still by said Dixon land N. 7° 22' W., 161.40 feet to an iron pin; THENCE N. 66° 15' W., 193 feet to a point; THENCE N. 69° 05' 30" W., 72.16 feet to a point;

THENCE S 19° 50' 20" W., 254.67 feet to a point by an unknown owner;

THENCE easterly by Crawford Road 330.06 feet more or less to a drill hole at the point of beginning.

Being all of parcel 3 and the remainder of Parcel 1 as shown on Plan of Property owned by Kasta Peter et ux, dated Mar 5, 1961, by Theodore Drazek, C.E.

BEING the same premises conveyed to Mortgagors by deed recorded in Book 23663, Page 94.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights,

rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Demerle Hoeger LLP, 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of Dwelling Series IV Trust,

Present holder of said mortgage,

By its Attorneys, Demerle Hoeger LLP 10 City Square, 4th Floor Boston, MA 02129 (617) 337-4444 04/01, 04/08, 04/15/2021

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Charles M. Thompson to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated August 24, 2012 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49607, Page 75 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to NewRez LLC f/k/a New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on April 23, 2020, in Book No. 62262, at Page 159

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **2:00 PM on April 23, 2021**, on the mortgaged premises located at 199 School Street N, Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land referred to herein below is situated in the county of WORCESTER, State of MA and is described as follows: ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND IN TOWN OF BARRE, WORCESTER COUNTY SOUTHERN DISTRICT, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 18470, PAGE 285, ID# 000E-0166, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS A METES AND BOUNDS PROPERTY. COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 199 SCHOOL STREET NORTH, BARRE, MA Tax/Parcel ID: 000E-0166

For a more accurate description of the property see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds at book 9113, page 174.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 18470, Page 285.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or

existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

NEWREZ LLC, F/K/A NEW PENN FINANCIAL, LLC, D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 19655 03/25, 04/01, 04/08/2021

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING REGARDING ADULT-USE MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT Type: Dispensing Facility

Location: Main St., Rutland, MA (Assessors Map/Parcel ID: A portion of M59A Block B Parcel 7, M59A Block B Parcel 5, and M59A Block B Parcel 6).

Notice is hereby given that High Hawk Farm, llc

of 140 Worcester Rd., Barre, MA 01005 will conduct a Virtual Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana

Establishment scheduled for April 12, 2021 at 6 p.m. via zoom. **Zoom link:** https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89836068133?pwd=QUxvdVhV3R5S1U2eXFILIZ-1V01Zdz09 The proposed

Adult Use Marijuana Establishment dispensing facility is anticipated to be located on Main Street Rutland, MA Assessors Map/Parcel ID: A portion of M59A Block B Parcel 7, M59A Block B Parcel 5, and M59A Block B Parcel 6, pursuant to the MGL Ch 94G and Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, other applicable laws and regulations promulgated thereunder by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

Information presented at the community outreach hearing will include, but not be limited to:

1. The type of Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to be located at the proposed address;

2. Information adequate to demonstrate that the Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment location will be maintained securely;

3. Steps to be taken by the Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to prevent diversion to minors;

4. A plan by the Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment to positively impact the community;

5. Information adequate to demonstrate that the location will not constitute a nuisance as defined by law; and

6. Community members will be permitted and are encouraged to ask questions and receive answers from representatives of High Hawk Farm, llc.

A copy of this notice is on file with the Town Clerk, at the Board of Selectmen's office and the Planning Board office, all located at the Community Hall, Main St., Rutland, MA and a copy of this Notice was mailed at least fourteen calendar days prior to the commu-

nity outreach meeting to the abutters of the proposed address of the Marijuana Establishment, owners of the land directly opposite on any public or private street or way, and abutters to the abutters within three hundred feet of the property line of the petitioner as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list, notwithstanding that the land of such owner is located in another City or Town.

High Hawk Farm, LLC Christopher Higgins Vice President 03/25, 04/01/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. WO21P0957EA Estate of: Hope J. Pobst Also known as: Hope Pobst Date of Death: 01/20/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Ann E. Melius** of Barre, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Ann E. Melius** of Barre, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**. **IMPORTANT NOTICE** You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/20/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 22, 2021 **Stephanie K. Fattman** Register of Probate 04/01/2021

TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with MGL, Chapter 87, Section 3, a public hearing will be held at **12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 2021**, in the Select Board's Meeting Room at the Town Hall on 20 Memorial Drive to consider the removal of trees on Hardwick Road – from Thompson Rd. intersection to Ravine Rd. intersection. The trees to be removed have been clearly marked. All interested parties are invited to attend.

This meeting is open to the public.

Richard T. Ayer
Tree Warden
03/25, 04/01/2021

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, March 21

8:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Criminal Complaint

Summons: James T. Fletcher, 64, Worcester

License Revoked as HTO, Operate Motor Vehicle With

9:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

10:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barrack Hill Road – Citation Issued

11:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Citation Issued

5:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Written Warning

5:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Vehicle Towed

Monday, March 22

9:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning

10:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Vehicle Towed

Summons: Chelsie L. Pike, 24, Leominster

Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Registration Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

11 a.m. Larceny/Theft Beechwood Drive – Report Filed 2:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Citation Issued

Tuesday, March 23

8:32 a.mn. Traffic Hazard Main Street – Vehicle Towed

Summons: Mohammad D. Awad, 42, Clifton, NJ

License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

3:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Criminal Complaint

3:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Criminal Complaint

Summons: Michelle Lai, 22, Auburn

License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Registration Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Uninsured Motor Vehicle

4:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Criminal Complaint

Summons: Richard G. Howells, 35, Leominster

Registration Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

6:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued

Wednesday, March 24

6:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning

8:38 p.m. Harassment Main Street – Officer Took Call

9:28 p.m. Missing Person Main Street – Returned to Family/Guardian

9:28 p.m. Medical Emergency Barre Plains Road – Transported to Hospital

Friday, March 26

9:26 a.m. Medical Emergency Ridge Road – Transported to Hospital

9:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Scott Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal

6:09 p.m. Fraud Barre Paxton Road – Report Filed

7:09 p.m. Unwanted Party Main Street – Report Filed

9:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire East County Road – Arrest(s) Made

Arrest: Maribel Reyes, 22, Webster

OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle

Saturday, March 27

9:43 a.m. Unwanted Party Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, March 21

9:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Burnshirt Road – Citation Issued

10:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued

10:35 a.m. Fire, Smoke Investigation Gardner Road – Investigated

1:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pitcherville Road – Vehicle Towed

Summons: Gavin R. Racicot, 21, Palmer

Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID; Uninsured Motor Vehicle

5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint

Summons: Curtice M. McGann, 23, Hubbardston

License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With

6:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint

Summons: Andrea H. Mathews, 27, Gardner

License Suspended, Operate

Motor Vehicle With; License Not In Possession

Monday, March 22

6:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued

11:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Gardner Road – Vehicle Towed

Tuesday, March 23

4:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Brigham Road – Citation Issued

Summons: Carla E. Wood, 62, Winchendon

Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

5:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Burnshirt Road – Written Warning

9:28 p.m. Fraud/Scam New Templeton Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, March 25

2:14 a.m. Missing Person Gardner Road – Investigated

6:03 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Navajo Street – Report Filed

7:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Criminal Complaint

Summons: Curtis J. Carlson, 26, Hubbardston

Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Friday, March 26

4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Burnshirt Road – Criminal Complaint

Summons: Nicholas M. Laraia, 28, South Barre

Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Number Plate Violation of Conceal ID

Saturday, March 27

11:09 a.m. Brush and Wildland Fires Pitcherville Road – Fire Extinguished

4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pitcherville Road – Criminal Complaint

Summons: Travis W. Goewey, 31, Gardner

License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Lights Violation, Trailer

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, March 21

3:14 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Lincoln Road – Unfounded

Wednesday, March 24

8:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Old Turnpike Road – Written Warning

6:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North Brookfield Road – Citation Issued

7:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North

Brookfield Road – Citation Issued

9:28 p.m. Medical Emergency Barre Plains Road – Transported to Hospital

Thursday, March 25

9:12 a.m. Brush/Wildland Fires Coldbrook Road – Investigated

Friday, March 26

9:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/

Fire Scott Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal

8:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Old Turnpike Road – Criminal Complaint

Summons: Tracy L. Vieu, 47, Palmer

License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense

SERMONS, continued from page 9

Him. He encourages them to pray and have faith. Jesus came with a mission, even though the mission would be dangerous. It was a prophetic mission, making sure the temple would be acknowledged as the House of God, leaving the disciples with the Great

Commandment and cautions them to be watchful in Mark 13 v 1-37.

Jesus knew that the jubilation and excitement about His presence would be short lived. He was appreciated by those who followed Him and became a threat to the leaders of the time. Riding on a colt, as the humble Messiah, He ushered in the Kingdom of the heavens, which would be resisted

by the leaders of the time.

IV. Conclusion

Palm Sunday is a time for us to recognize our Lord and Saviour. His message of love for God and neighbor. His life was a life of acknowledging those who were humble, those on the margins, those who walked the journey with Him, because He was humble. He did not seek 3 the acknowledg-

ment of earthly Kings. He did not receive any award for all He had done,

like those of us do. He was however, the Messiah, the Heavenly King filled with everything the people needed, love and compassion and acceptance. It was something misunderstood by the religious leaders of the time. Palm Sunday is a day to cherish, and it

teaches us about the Kingdom of the heavens that must be lived out in our own lives as followers of Christ. It is about shouting from the rooftops a message of love and hope and justice for all. It may get us into trouble, because even today, this kind of message of leveling the playing field where everyone is the same, equal in the eyes of God, is not accepted by many in power.

We must live out this message, because it is a message of our Christ, who died for us, and whose death we will remember this coming Holy week. May God help us as we follow Christ in good times and difficult times. Amen

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church

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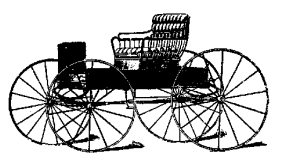
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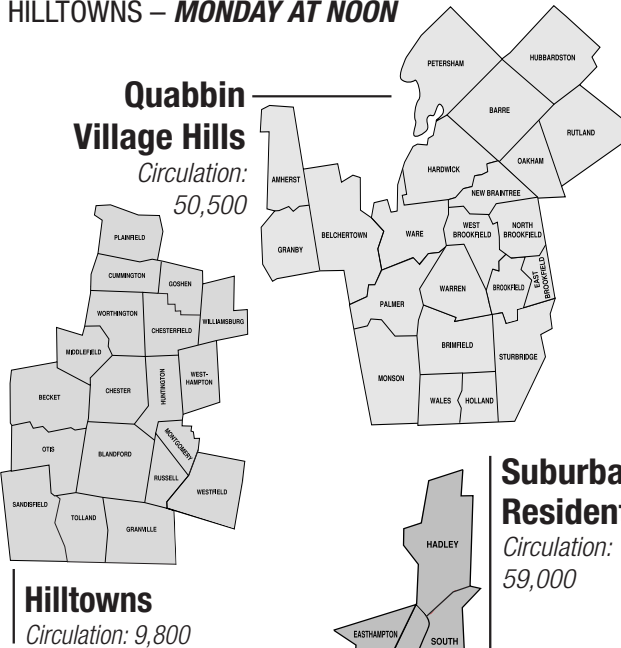
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Jazz pianist to perform free concert

Jazz pianist Stephen Page presents an online concert funded in part by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council. Page will present an hour's Zoom program of jazz songs from his Amherst studio Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m. The link to the zoom program is <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2839025280?pwd=V-2VZdU9oeFpPOHRRdWhqOT-NZdFF1Zz09> and the meeting ID is 283 902 5280, Passcode 8iVB8i.

This program is supported in part by the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the

Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The concert will be live-streamed from Page's Amherst, Massachusetts studio and will include his talking about jazz as well as his performance.

Stephen Page has worked for more than 30 years throughout the eastern seaboard with a variety of musical combinations from solo work to big bands. He's accompanied jazz luminaries such as Sheila Jordan in venues such as the Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton, Yale University, Greylock Jazz Festival, Gateways Inn in Lenox. He is an instructor of jazz piano

at Amherst College, Deerfield Academy, the University of Massachusetts, Northampton Community Center and his own Amherst studio.

His musical journey started with drums and trumpet before he dedicated himself to the piano at age seventeen. After completing his B.A. in jazz studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, he continued studying with jazz notables Billy Taylor, Yusef Lateef, and Kenny Werner, and renowned music educator Charlie Banacos. The concert is free and open to the public.

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